

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

providing a program guide of television programming to enable a customer to create a ~~custom~~customer-made channel by selecting at least one television program from the program guide and by specifying a viewing time for the selected television program, wherein the customer-made channel is specific and dedicated to the customer;

receiving input from the customer including the selected television program and the specified viewing time;

determining whether to include the selected television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel;

obtaining television programs for the ~~custom~~customer-made channel; and

transmitting the obtained television programs to the customer using the

~~custom~~customer-made channel created by the customer,

wherein determining whether to include the selected television program in the

~~custom~~customer-made channel includes:

determining whether the selected television program conflicts in viewing

time with a program previously added to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel;

and

if the selected television program conflicts in viewing time with the previously added television program,

adding the selected television program to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel if it is determined to record the selected television program or the previously added program for viewing at a different time by the customer, to provide simultaneous access to the selected television program and the previously added television program, or to delete the previously added television program from the ~~custom~~customer-made channel, and otherwise not including the selected television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

allowing a customer to create more than one ~~custom~~customer-made channel;

obtaining television programs for the more than one ~~custom~~customer-made channel; and

simultaneously transmitting the obtained television programs to the customer using the more than one ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the customer at least one access code to a television program in the program guide, the at least access code including an access level.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein obtaining television programs for the ~~custom~~customer-made channel comprises at least one of:

pre-recording a television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel if the customer desires to view the television program at a later time;

requesting and obtaining ~~[[a]]~~the television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel from a content provider; or

generating ~~[[a]]~~the television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

6-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the obtained television programs to the customer using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel comprises encrypting data before transmitting the obtained television programs using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel to the customer.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a user

interface for a customer to select television programs in the program guide to be included in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the user interface comprises a voice-based natural language dialog system.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the user interface comprises a web-based user interface.

18. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a receiver to receive television programming from at least one provider;

a customer interface to provide a program guide of television programming to enable a customer to create a ~~custom~~customer-made channel by selecting at least one television program from the program guide and by specifying a viewing time for the selected television program, wherein the customer-made channel is specific and dedicated to the customer;

a controller to determine whether to include the selected television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel, and to obtain data for the ~~custom~~customer-made

channel; and

a transmitter coupled to the receiver, the transmitter to transmit the obtain data to the customer using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel created by the customer,

wherein the controller adds the selected program to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel if the selected television program does not conflict in viewing time with a television program previously added to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel, or if the selected television program conflicts in viewing time with the previously added television program but if it is determined to record the selected television program or the previously added television program for viewing by the customer at a different time, to provide simultaneous access to the selected television program and the previously added television program, or to delete the previously added television program from the ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising a database memory to store ~~custom~~customer-made channel data.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the customer interface including one of an electronic program guide, a natural language electronic program guide, and a web-based electronic program guide.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a video storage medium coupled to the receiver, the video storage medium to receive and store television programming.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising an encryption device coupled to the transmitter, the encryption device to encrypt the ~~custom~~customer-made channel data prior to transmitting to the customer.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising access circuitry coupled to the customer interface, the access circuitry to receive and verify a customer access code.

24-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the controller obtains data for the ~~custom~~customer-made channel by at least one of:

pre-recording a television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel if the customer desires to view the program at a later time;

requesting and obtaining ~~[[a]]the television~~ program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel from a content provider; or

generating ~~[[a]]the television~~ program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

28. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine accessible medium, said machine accessible medium comprising instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations including:

providing a program guide of television programming to enable a customer to create a ~~custom~~customer-made channel by selecting at least one television program from the program guide and by specifying a viewing time for the selected television program, wherein the customer-made channel is specific and dedicated to the customer;

receiving input from the customer including the selected television program and the specified viewing time;

determining whether to include the selected television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel;

obtaining television programs for the ~~custom~~customer-made channel; and

transmitting the obtained television programs to the customer using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel created by the customer,

wherein determining whether to include the selected television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel includes:

determining whether the selected television program conflicts in viewing time with a television program previously added to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel; and

if the selected television program conflicts in viewing time with the previously added television program,

adding the selected television program to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel if it is determined to record the selected television program or the previously added television program for viewing by the customer at a different time, to provide simultaneous access to the selected television program and the previously added television program, or to delete the previously added television program from the ~~custom~~customer-made channel, and otherwise not including the selected television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

29-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The article of claim 28, said operations further include:

allowing a customer to create more than one ~~custom~~customer-made channel;
obtaining television programs for the more than one ~~custom~~customer-made channel; and

simultaneously transmitting the obtained television programs to the customer using the more than one ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) The article of claim 28, wherein obtaining programs for the ~~custom~~customer-made channel comprises at least one of:

pre-recording a television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel if the customer desires to view the television program at a later time;

requesting and obtaining a television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel from a content provider; or

generating a television program in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel.

35. (Currently amended) The article of claim 28, wherein transmitting the obtained television programs to the customer using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel comprises encrypting data before transmitting the obtained television programs using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel to the customer.

36. (Currently amended) The article of claim 28, wherein the operations further include providing a user interface for a customer to select television programs in the program guide to be included in the ~~custom~~customer-made channel, the user interface comprising a voice-based natural language dialog system.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining television programs for the ~~custom~~customer-made channel and transmitting the obtained television programs to the customer using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel comprise:

providing a provider with ~~custom~~customer-made channel information;

obtaining, by the provider, the television programs for the customer channel according to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel information; and

transmitting, by the provider, the obtained television programs to the customer using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel according to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel information.

38. (Currently amended) The article of claim 28, wherein obtaining programs for the ~~custom~~customer-made channel and transmitting to the customer the ~~custom~~customer-made channel comprise:

providing a provider with ~~custom~~customer-made channel information;

obtaining, by the provider, the television programs for the customer-made channel according to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel information; and

transmitting, by the provider, the obtained television programs to the customer using the ~~custom~~customer-made channel according to the ~~custom~~customer-made channel information.